



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,681	11/28/2001	Stefan Berndt	112740-351	4573
29177	7590	05/03/2004	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			PEACHES, RANDY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2686	5

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,681

Applicant(s)

BERNDT ET AL.

Examiner

Randy Peaches

Art Unit

2686

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Should applicant desire to obtain the benefit of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) prior to declaration of an interference, a translation of the foreign application should be submitted under 37 CFR 1.55 in reply to this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. ***Claims 1-7*** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Owens et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,633,630 B1).

Regarding ***claim 1***, Owens et al discloses a telecommunication device for forwarding messages for a forwarded-to subscriber, comprising:

- A communication server (28), which reads on claimed “control device”;
- A database for storing subscriber related information, the subscriber related information identifying a plurality of forward-to subscribers and terminals associated

with the plurality of forward-to subscribers and message formats compatible with the terminals. See FIGURE 1, column 3 lines 24-40.

- At least on telecommunication network interface via which messages can be exchanged with the telecommunications network. See column 7 lines 4-10; and
- At least one conversion module for converting temporarily stored messages into at least one of the message formats identified by the subscriber- related information and in the stored database. See columns 2 and 8 lines 55-57 lines 39-47.
- Wherein the said communication server (28) selects, upon receipt of a message intended for a forwarded-to subscriber, at least one of the terminals via which the forwarded-to subscriber can be reached, and at least one message format compatible with the at least one message terminal, via the subscriber related information, supplies the message to the at least one conversion module (see column 7 lines 34-37), depending upon the message format selected and receives the messages converted by the at least one conversion module and forwards them to the telecommunication network interface respectively corresponding to the relevant message format for transmission to the at least on selected terminal. See column 7 lines 24-50.

Regarding **claim 2**, according to **claim 1**, Owens et al teaches in FIGURE 1, columns 7 and 10 lines 6-10, 31-34 lines 3-17, respectively, wherein the forwarding messages intended for the forwarding subscriber further comprises:

- A message repository, which read on claimed "storage device", for temporarily storing at least one of the messages received via the at least one telecommunication interface and the converted message.

Regarding **claim 3**, according to **claim 1**, Owens et al teaches in column 10 lines 35-55, wherein the subscriber related information of the database contains an information element which identifies the terminals to be selected.

Regarding **claim 4**, according to **claim 3**, Owens et al teaches in column 12 lines 31-50, wherein the said communication server (28) changes the information element based on the messages sent off by the relevant forwarded-to subscriber, which contains the information relating to an availability of the forwarded-to subscriber. Additionally, as stated in column 12 lines 49-50, Owens et al discloses that if a receiver cannot be located, the sender maybe placed into the voicemail. The receiver can maintain rules for the incoming messages as well. See column 12 lines 25-26.

Regarding **claim 5**, Owens et al discloses in column 2 lines 23-57, a method for forwarding a message intended for a forwarded-to subscriber, effected via a telecommunication device, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving the message (column 2 lines 33-36);
- selecting at least one terminal via which the forwarded-to subscriber can be reached (column 7 lines 22-24), and selecting at least one message format,

which is compatible with the at least one terminal, via subscriber-related information (column 37-40);

- converting a temporarily stored message into the at least one message format selected (column 41-43); and
- transmitting the converted message to the at least one terminal selected via a telecommunication network respectively corresponding to the relevant message format (columns 3 and 7 lines 24-25 lines 41-47, respectively).

Regarding **claim 6**, according to **claim 5**, Owens et al discloses in columns 7 and 10 lines 6-10, 31-34 lines 13-17, respectively, a method further comprising:

- storing, temporarily, the at least one message on a storage device in at least one of the step of receiving and the step of converting.

Regarding **claim 7**, according to **claim 5**, Owens et al discloses in column 10 lines 49-56, a method wherein during the step of selecting, a selection is made based on an information element which is contained in the subscriber-related information and which identifies the terminals to be selected.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure:

a.) U.S. Patent Number: 5,832,221 – Jones – *Universal Message Storage System*


- The message storage system accepting a query including a specified property, and generates a mailbox including a stored message when one of the message properties is the specified property.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randy Peaches whose telephone number is (703) 305-8993. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Randy Peaches
April 30, 2004


4-30-04

NGUYENT.VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER